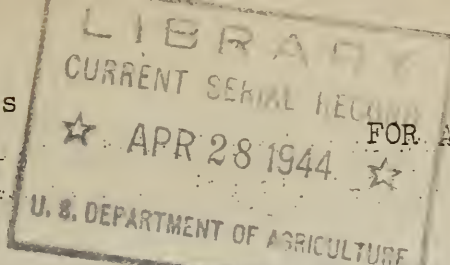


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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Office of Marketing Services  
Marketing Reports Division  
821 Market Street, Room 700  
San Francisco 3, California  
Western Region



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week ending March 9, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Potatoes: Effective March 5, ODT carloading order was amended requiring a minimum load of 50,000 pounds on potatoes when in containers of 100 pounds or more. Certified seed only may be loaded at the 45,000 pound minimum, and only on special permit in states of Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska, New York, Maine, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Early crop acreage in Kern County, California, is now estimated as low as 45,000 acres, compared with 53,000 acres last year.

Old crop now moving heavier than the last week of February. Idaho shipped 860 cars during the past week, Maine 2,130 cars, and U.S. 5,410 cars. Idaho to date this season has shipped 29,751 cars, compared with 32,442 cars last season, while the U.S. carlot movement totals 219,903 cars to date this season, and 239,466 cars last season.

Shipping point and wholesale prices remained at ceiling.

Lettuce: Acreage for spring crop harvest by June 1, in Arizona and California, is estimated at slightly over 51,000 acres, about 25 percent more than in 1944 but about equal to the 1942 acreage.

Carload shipments the past week were down slightly from the previous week to 1,093 cars out of the Western Region, and 1,096 for the U.S. representing a decline of 11 percent. Total movement to date this season: U.S. 28,193 cars, Western Region 13,396 cars.

F.o.b. shipping point prices closed the week at \$3.25 to \$3.39 per crate of 4 to 5 dozen heads, reflecting a slight increase over the previous week. Wholesale prices at the close of the week were \$3.75 to \$4.10 in California, and \$5.00 to \$5.17 per crate in the Northwest.

Carrots: Planted acreages for spring harvest were heavily increased this season in California, Arizona, and Texas to 9,000 acres, 4,000 acres and 20,900 acres, respectively.

Bunched stock shipments the past week totaled 385 cars from the Western Region, and 503 cars for the U.S., compared with 363 cars, and 463 cars for the previous week. Total U.S. carlot movement this season to date 8,595 cars, last season same date 6,158 cars.

Shipping point prices closed the week slightly higher than for the previous week and were mostly around \$2.00 per crate for medium to large stocks. Sacked stock also increased to a range of 90 cents to \$1.00 per sack. Wholesale prices in the Southwest were mostly \$2.75 to \$3.50 per crate, and in the Northwest \$3.90 to \$4.25 per crate.



Asparagus: Eight express cars have been loaded out to date this season from California producing areas. Wholesale prices have declined to a top of 55 cents per pound.

Oranges: Rail movement has decreased the past week to 2,612 cars for the U.S., and 1,047 cars for Arizona and California. Wholesale prices on Navel's closed the week at top prices of \$4.00 to \$4.50 in the Southwest, and \$5.00 to \$5.50 in the Northwest for the 220 size and larger.

#### DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Butter: Wholesalers who wish to acquire and store butter for future transfers have been advised by OPA that they may apply to OPA for a loan of ration points for that purpose, provided they have no "excess inventory" and are able to obtain adequate cold-storage facilities. This is to assist in a more uniform distribution in consuming areas. Offer is good until July 10.

Improved weather and pasture conditions in the West, together with more favorable butter-fat prices for processing, have increased the butter supply. However, supplies continue below demand, and much below last year's level.

Eggs: Production on the Pacific Coast and in the Western Region remains approximately 15 percent under the production of last year at this time. Demand continues to hold prices at the allowable ceiling on most of the markets. Although production has increased, many receivers report difficulty in building up storage stocks.

Poultry: WFA is now urging poultry producers to increase chicken production for meat purposes to meet the heavy military and lend-lease requirements, as well as to help offset lower supplies of other meats.

Supplies on the Western Region markets are much under demand, and prices the past week pressed the allowable ceiling.

#### LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: Receipts on the four western markets the past week were 18,798 head, 3 percent less than the previous week and 14 percent above those two weeks ago. On the twelve principal markets receipts were 222,200 head, 98 percent of the previous week, but 19 percent more than a year ago.

Wholesale prices showed increases up to 25 cents on most of the markets. Top prices on the western markets ranged \$15.50 to \$17.10 on good fed steers. Some choice stock from Nebraska went at \$17.75.

Demand for beef on all the wholesale markets exceeded supplies, even though supplies appeared to be heavier than last year at this time. Prices pressed allowable ceilings.

Hogs: Supplies on all markets were down again this past week from those of the previous week, and from the same week last year. Demand exceeded supplies. Prices pressed allowable ceilings. Sows were up, and feeder pigs ranged up to \$18.00 on the West Coast.

BAE reports that the total production of meats in 1945 may be about 10 percent less than in 1944, (dressed meat basis) when an estimated 24.7 billion pounds were produced. They indicate this will be the result of a sharp decrease in pork production, and a moderate decrease on mutton and lamb.

First of the year summaries on sales of livestock made in 1944 through the California Farm Bureau Marketing Association shows receipts covering 48,254 cattle returning \$2,754,163, and 73,413 hogs returning \$2,095,668. Livestock sold at the sales originated principally in the area from Bakersfield, in Kern County to Chowchilla, in Madera County, covering the first six counties of the Upper San Joaquin Valley. Livestock purchased at these auction sales helped to supply the meat trade of both Los Angeles and San Francisco, as well as the Valley towns.

#### GRAIN PRODUCTS

Rice: WFO 10 has been amended, effective March 10, to increase the set-aside of milled rice from 60 percent to 100 percent of all milled rice produced in the southern states and California. This amendment includes all rice owned by millers as of March 10, wherever rice is located, as well as the total amount milled after March 10.

Wheat: The crop in the winter wheat belt now appears to be showing improved growth as result of better weather and moisture conditions.

Market conditions on the Pacific Coast have weakened during the past week reflecting favorable war news. Portland reported a one cent per bushel drop in price. Farther east, shortage of loading space caused difficulty, and movement of stocks was lighter than usual.

Number One Soft White and Western Red in Portland were quoted at \$1.53 per bushel, and in San Francisco at \$2.80, \$2.85 and \$2.90 per 100 lbs. (\$1.68 to \$1.74 per bushel) sacked basis.

Barley: Smaller offerings of barley on the Pacific Coast markets were reflected in increased prices to or at ceiling. In some of the producing sections where rainfall has been limited, growers are inclined to hold stocks pending later outlook for the 1945 crop.

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